

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 03347 110732Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 CAB-05 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EPG-02

FAA-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /056 W

-----120523Z 005213 /10

R 110635Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 393

UNCLAS CANBERRA 3347

LABOR OFFICERS SENDS

FOLLOWING REPEAT MELBOURNE 1080 SENT ACTION CANBERRA MAY 11:

QUOTE

UNCLAS MELBOURNE 1080

FOR POLITICAL SECTION FROM LABOR OFFICER

EO 11652 N A

TAGS ELAB, AS

SUBJ: COMMENT ON AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS STRIKE WHICH HAS
GROUNDED AUSTRALIA'S COMMERICAL AIRLINES

1. NATIONWIDE STRIKE OF ABOUT 1000 AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS
WHICH HAS IMMOBILIZED AUSTRALIA'S COMMERICAL AIR TRAFFIC SINCE
IT BEGAN MIDNIGHT MAY 6 HAS DRAWN ATTENTION ONCE AGAIN TO
FREQUENT INABILITY OF COUNTRY'S CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION
SYSTEM TO DEAL PROMPTLY, EFFECTIVELY AND EQUITABLY WITH
SERIOUSLY-DISRUPTIVE INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.

2. CIVIL AIR OPERATIONS OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION (NOT AFFILIATED
WITH ACTU) CALLED STRIKE IN SUPPORT OF LONG-PENDING (SINCE 1975)
LOG OF CLAIMS WHICH REQUESTS WAGE PARITY FOR CONTROLLERS WITH
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COMMERCIAL AIRLINE PILOTS.

3. AUTONOMOUS PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD HAS CONSISTENTLY REFUSED
TO GRANT VERY LARGE WAGE INCREASES WHICH WOULD BE INVOLVED
AND FRASER GOVT HAS CONSISTENTLY AND PUBLICLY SUPPORTED
BOARD'S POSITION. PRIME MINISTER FRASER QUOTED IN PRESS MAY 11
AS SAYING CONTROLLERS WOULD NOT GET ONE CENT OUT OF PRESENT

DISPUTE.

4. RESULT IS BITTERLY-FOUGHT CONTEST BETWEEN VERY DETERMINED OPPONENTS WHICH, IN LESS THAN 5 DAYS (AND WITH NO END IN SIGHT) HAS CREATED CHAOTIC SITUATION FOR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL TRAVELERS AND BROUGHT AIRLINES TO POINT OF STANDING DOWN THOUSANDS OF EMPLOYEES IF DISPUTE NOT SETTLED BY MIDNIGHT MAY 11.

5. FULL BENCH OF FEDERAL CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION COMMISSION (CURRENTLY PREOCCUPIED WITH NATIONAL WAGE CASE) HAS AGREED TO BEGIN HEARINGS ON DISPUTE MONDAY, MAY 16(OR SOONER IF CONTROLLERS AGREE TO SUSPEND STRIKE DURING HEARINGS).

6. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO TRADE PRACTICES AND CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION ACTS PROVIDE FEDERAL GOVT WITH AUTHORITY IT DOES NOT NOW POSSESS TO INTERVENE IN SERIOUSLY DISRUPTIVE DISPUTES SUCH AS PRESENT CONTROLLERS' STRIKE AND RECENTLY TRANSPORT WORKERS' STRIKES IN VICTORIA. TRADE UNION LEADERS INCLUDING ACTU PRESIDENT HAWKE (WHO STRONGLY OPPOSE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS) ARE UNDERSTANDABLY VERY CONCERNED LEST TRADE UNIONS, BY THEIR OWN DISRUPTIVE ACTIONS (AND REGARDLESS OF MERITS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE CASES) SIGNIFICANTLY AID AND ABET FRASER GOVT'S CURRENT EFFORTS TO SELL ITS INDUSTRIAL LEGISLATION PROGRAM TO AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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